

## NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

-----  
In the Matter of:       \*  
                              \*  
TAKKI TOO                \* Docket No. DCA 03 MM 035  
                              \*  
-----

June 14, 2003

INTERVIEW OF:

MARK HAMLETT  
BRIAN LOLL  
CHRIS HAMLETT  
DANIEL HAMLETT

PRESENT:   LIEUTENANT BILL LIMBAUGH  
          CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER RUSS BODD

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 LIEUTENANT LIMBAUGH: Today is Saturday 14  
3 June, 2003, and the time is 13:40 local time.

4 Lieutenant Bill Limbaugh, Chief Warrant  
5 Officer Russ Bodd, and Mr. Mark Hamlett,  
6 interviewing the incident aboard the Takki Too.

7 EXAMINATION OF MARK HAMLETT:

8 Q How old are you, Mr. Hamlett:

9 A I am 53 this year.

10 Q Fifty three.

11 Do you hold any mariner licenses?

12 A Yes. I hold a Marine Board Certificate.

13 Q A Marine Board Certificate. Okay. From  
14 the State of Oregon?

15 A From the State of Oregon.

16 Q Where were you in the relation when the  
17 incident happened, where were you on the boat?

18 A We had been sitting inside the actual  
19 jetty probably, end of the jetty, probably a quarter  
20 mile for close to an hour, circling, watching to see  
21 if it was going to lay down. I had watched three  
22 other boats go out and had heard conversations from  
23 two of the skippers, one saying that he had to try  
24 to miss a log, and got hit with a pretty good wave  
25 and he said that it wasn't worth it. The next one

1 out --

2 Q Do you know what vessel it was?

3 A That was the Norwester.

4 Q Norwester, okay.

5 A The next one out was something Pilot.

6 Q Oakland Pilot.

7 A Oakland Pilot. It was a gray boat. The  
8 Oakland Pilot went out and the way the radio  
9 message, if it was truly him, the radio message came  
10 back that someone had taken a wave and someone fell  
11 and broke out a window with an elbow. Okay. So, we  
12 are still sitting inside, and the D&D went out, they  
13 started, started out under little bit earlier  
14 conditions and were in-between sets, they made it  
15 out, made it pass the north jetty and I never did  
16 receive a radio confirmation from them directly.

17 We at that point started heading towards  
18 the jetty point on the south side of the north  
19 jetty, and well, probably within an eighth mile or  
20 less of jaws, and he, the captain and I had had an  
21 earlier discussion that the sneakers were rolling on  
22 about fifth set. And he was watching, it looked  
23 like there was a possibility it was going to lay  
24 down. As he started to go, it didn't look good to  
25 me on the first two or three waves, and he got into

1     some debris, some logs, some logs, some debris out  
2     there. He had to back out of it. And he lost  
3     power. He powered up back up to go over to the next  
4     two waves, which got bigger, and the third wave, we  
5     were just about at the tip of the jetty and as he  
6     started to go, he tried to either run the trough or  
7     tried to just get around the tip of the jetty, and  
8     it rolled up to about 20 feet as the sneakers, and I  
9     saw it coming. We were inside, I saw it coming.  
10    There was no place to go. The boat rolled twice, it  
11    came to rest basically upside down. There was  
12    probably four feet of air space at the -- my son, my  
13    son-in-law, his father, myself and two other guys  
14    were in the cabin, and somewhere along the way my  
15    youngest son got back into the cabin. I was  
16    standing next to the table seat where all the life  
17    jackets, and I started pulling life jackets out and  
18    started distributing them to everybody.

19           Q     That was while you were upside down?

20           A     Upside down in the air pocket.

21                   We were trying to watch for lights and we  
22    were trying to windows. We were talking about  
23    windows, trying to get out, trying to figure out  
24    where the door was. All of the coolers and the  
25    seat pads and anything else that would float, was a

1 hindrance to any kind of movement. The boat rolled  
2 up a couple of times, you know, we are out there in  
3 washing machine. And the boat rolled up enough to  
4 where my son, who had gotten, I could hear him say  
5 there is a window, and my older son and Brian were  
6 able to get out. Now exactly how they got out, I  
7 don't know. I could not see. When my older son, I  
8 think he went out first, Brian, my  
9 son-in-law went out next and then I heard my son,  
10 Daniel, trying to get Brian's dad to come with him,  
11 to go out. At this point I am still in the bough of  
12 the boat and can't get pass all the debris.

13 Q You mean to go aft.

14 A Yeah, I could go aft towards the window or  
15 anything else because of the debris at that point.  
16 The floating stuff.

17 Q Yes.

18 A At that point I heard my son yelling one  
19 more time and I basically hear a moan from my son-  
20 in-law's father, and heard nothing else. At that  
21 point I was probably, it seemed like an hour, but I  
22 was probably in the bough of the boat for between  
23 five to 10 minutes more, and it progressively got,  
24 the bough was staying afloat because of the air, but  
25 it was, you know, in the chop and in the swells and

1 everything else. I basically sat there and said,  
2 okay, God, it is my time, and you know, it is time.

3 I had no idea where my kids were or where anybody  
4 was. I think we probably hit bottom on one of the  
5 swell actions. The boat rolled over to the  
6 starboard, where the windows were, you know, I am  
7 standing on the, on the top deck of the boat, on the  
8 flying bridge, underneath side of the flying bridge.

9 And I think what happened is as the swell, the  
10 ground swell went back out, the boat cut enough of  
11 the bottom that I could see a window, and I could  
12 see the window was broken out. And the next time it  
13 did that, it was a small window and I couldn't get  
14 out with my life jacket, so I took it off my head,  
15 and went out the window with it in my hand. And  
16 kind of got hung up on the guard rail as I went out  
17 and once I got out, and got away from the boat, I  
18 was able to put the life jacket back over my head,  
19 not strapped and at that point I just locked my arms  
20 around it and realized that, you know, I was not in  
21 a position anymore, that I was going to go down with  
22 it. I was out of it, and I grew surfing in Los  
23 Angeles, and I just let the waves take me from  
24 there. And at some point, I could see where I was,  
25 I could see that I was nowhere near the jetty, and I

1       could see Tillamook Head area and I knew I was going  
2       the right way. And I just let it kind of go and I  
3       touched bottom and I went, okay. And I let myself  
4       float on in on the next, the next wave. And once I  
5       could stand up, I stood up and walked until I got to  
6       about knee, knee high and I couldn't move no more.  
7       I was standing there going --

8               Q       Okay. Where was the master, was he on the  
9       flying bridge operating or was he in the --

10              A       The captain was the flying bridge.

11              Q       The flying bridge.

12              A       Most of the way out, I stood on the  
13       starboard side.

14              Q       You did.

15              A       And spoke, carried conversations with him  
16       and the deck hand, Tami.

17              Q       From up, going back, you were down below.

18              A       I was standing, yeah, we were --

19              Q       Okay.

20              A       And I carried on conversations.

21              Q       With him?

22              A       He made mention of the fact, that what I  
23       saw in the sneakers, and what I saw in the swells,  
24       had discussed the fact of what time low tide was  
25       complete and what time incoming tide should have

1       been running.

2               Q       The code is one, seven, three, nine.

3               A       And we did discuss that.  And --

4               Q       Okay.  Did he give any pre briefs,  
5       anything, any pre briefs?

6               A       He gave all the safety pre briefs.

7               Q       Okay.

8               A       There would have been -- briefs.  I do  
9       believe that, one thing that he should have done,  
10      when he made the judgement call, I mean, going out  
11      over the bar, the judgement call at any time, I wear  
12      a PFD in my bass boat all the time because of the  
13      speed I go and because of where I go in the Columbia  
14      River and the way it can get like the ocean.  I  
15      think the judgement call was poor in that he did not  
16      request everyone to put on life jackets before he  
17      made the run.  And I believe that turning, making  
18      your turn north around the jetty, was taking the  
19      waves head on, and you know, keeping it in control  
20      would have been the better part of what should have  
21      been done.  It was literally after the second, after  
22      the second roller, when that third one crested, I  
23      honestly, I saw it coming.  And when he turned to  
24      the west, from the west to the north to try roll  
25      around it, and it just, I knew it was --



1 Q Were you completely broadsided?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay.

4 A I don't think we had had quarter turned  
5 off of, off of parallel to the -- I don't think, I  
6 don't think we had gotten that far away.

7 Q Was anybody else talking to the master,  
8 conveying any warnings or about the crossing?

9 A No one, he was on the flying bridge. He  
10 was up there with Tami. They were discussing, they  
11 were watching. I was watching, as I did a small  
12 amount of commercial fishing out of Brooking in the  
13 '70s, and I have been out on a few of the other days  
14 on the coast and I have been out of most every, had  
15 a job on the coast. And I, I don't know it all, but  
16 it was a judgement call possibly in haste,  
17 especially if you guys could not go ahead and  
18 circling one more time and having everybody get on  
19 life jackets.

20 Q Did you have a seat when he decided to go?

21 A At the start of it, I did, and I looked up  
22 and I could see a couple of the waves cresting and  
23 what I did was I came down off the edge of the bough  
24 skirt and went inside behind the door, more or less,  
25 to stay out of the water spray. Because I knew we

1       were going to take water over the bough. I never  
2       expected that he took broadside.

3           Q       In your experience, is that a logical  
4       avenue to take or most mariners would just stay  
5       facing the waves?

6           A       Again, because I dealt with the -- with  
7       Cascades Locks and the way the water will flow up,  
8       you are dealing with waves that are, waves and  
9       swells that are similar in reaction and necessary  
10      reaction to them as you are to the ocean. And I am  
11      dealing with a boat that is basically two inches  
12      above the water. I have taken water over the bough  
13      because I have had the bottom drop out from  
14      underneath me as I would come over and I just didn't  
15      quite power out of it. If I crossed the river from  
16      one side to the other, I, when they are cresting,  
17      and when they are capping, I do not cross on  
18      parallel conditions under any circumstance. I will  
19      quarter, depending on the wind, and I have to start  
20      from one side of the river to hit the other side of  
21      the river and I have to do, you know, just short  
22      burst as waves do, I will cut it across that wave.  
23      But, for down river, I will keep it bough into the  
24      water. I just, you know, I just don't do it.

25           Q       Have you been on this boat before?

1           A     No, I haven't.

2           Q     This was your first time.

3           A     This is the first time I have been out  
4     with this charter.

5           Q     Okay. And you have been in other, you  
6     have been aboard other charter boats?

7           A     I have been onboard other charter boats  
8     here in Garibaldi -- and Hinkle Bay and Newport and  
9     Brookings. That pretty much covers it.

10          Q     Did you know the master?

11          A     No, I have never met this gentleman.

12          Q     Any signs that the master was drinking or  
13     anything like that?

14          A     No, no. In fact one of his comments was,  
15     on my boat there is no drugs or booze. I will turn  
16     around. And, you know, this was part of his pre,  
17     pre thing.

18          Q     Okay.

19          A     This was, he made that evident before we  
20     ever left the dock.

21          Q     Okay.

22                 LIEUTENANT LIMBAUGH: Any questions?

23                 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I will go over what  
24     you covered.

25                 As probably you already know,

1 it was going to be a serious investigation.

2 MR. HAMLETT: Right.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- in contact with  
4 you again. The number you gave us, is that your  
5 home?

6 MR. HAMLETT: [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED]

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

9 MR. HAMLETT: I have a cell phone, but it  
10 got wet. Once it is back up and running, once I get  
11 a different phone, you try me at [REDACTED]

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. I have got that  
13 one.

14 And you live in Portland?

15 MR. HAMLETT: Correct.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Great. Have you  
17 spoken with Tami after the incident?

18 MR. HAMLETT: No, I have not spoken with  
19 Tami.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

21 MR. HAMLETT: I was not sure, I had heard  
22 that she had survived. It was, you know, my  
23 thoughts were, you know, after the way this thing  
24 went over, there was no way that, where she was that  
25 she was going to get away from, from being crushed

1 by the boat, particularly being toppled. We  
2 rolled around inside there. It was like being in a  
3 washing machine. It was --

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All the passengers  
5 were inside the cabin?

6 MR. HAMLETT: No.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No. Some were in  
8 the --

9 MR. HAMLETT: There were five of us. There  
10 was four of us and two people that were also  
11 survivors, that were inside. There was, my son was  
12 sitting right outside the door, and I still don't,  
13 he doesn't know how he got back in. The rest of  
14 the remaining 19 were outside, where you have got  
15 six of us inside, one right on the perimeter of the  
16 door, and again, I don't know how he got back in  
17 except that, you know, I am -- when you are able to  
18 hand your son a life jacket, he goes out the window,  
19 you know, it is like, hey, you are not asking  
20 questions, you are just thank God.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It is not a hard  
22 question, the people that you mentioned, did they  
23 all survive, your sons, son-in-law?

24 MR. HAMLETT: My sons, both of my sons, my  
25 son-in-law, myself survived. The two other guys

1       that were in the thing, one of them started out a  
2       window and got stuck, and my son-in-law said he  
3       didn't pull, he just booted him out.     My son's  
4       father, my son-in-law's father did not survive.   He  
5       was in the boat with me when my youngest son went  
6       out and the last thing I heard, I identified him on  
7       the beach.   Because I stayed there and IDED on the  
8       beach, because I knew he had on a green sweatshirt  
9       and I knew him.

10               LIEUTENANT LIMBAUGH:   Anything else you can  
11       think of that we should know?

12               MR. HAMLETT: I wish, I am, I thank God we  
13       are alive.   I don't think I would have run it. I  
14       think I would have held off and waited for the tide  
15       to subside a little bit more to be able to head  
16       right into it.

17               UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did the boat appear  
18       to be running all right?

19               MR. HAMLETT: The boat was running fine.  
20       The, the two first bigger swells as we started out,  
21       he had to power out because when it dropped into the  
22       chop, the chop was real hard.   And I mean, they just  
23       came up, and he was, he had been running kind of  
24       west, kind of staying into the swells. And he had to  
25       power out and he came up over the second swell and

1 the third swell was the one that just an absolute  
2 monster. And I would have stayed, I would have  
3 stayed headed.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I understand this --  
5 it had a lot to do with the -- of people that  
6 weren't there with you, so.

7 MR. HAMLETT: I didn't try to be a hero.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, I understand.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I kind of covered my  
10 kids and -- I stayed in there for probably close to  
11 10 minutes longer after everybody had gone, I didn't  
12 know if I was going to see it or not, I tried to --  
13 I had enough composure to know whether, when the  
14 life jackets were under the seat, and I knew where I  
15 was and I knew that if there was any way to get out,  
16 get them life jackets, because I know what it is to  
17 be out in the washing machine in that cold water.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Any explanation on,  
19 between the time you flip and the time you started  
20 handing out the life jackets, was it almost  
21 immediate?

22 MR. HAMLETT: Almost immediate. As soon as  
23 we righted ourselves to a point of stabilization  
24 upside down, the water was filling to where it was  
25 at least four foot deep, and we were, I was handing

1 out life jackets and trying to, everybody got them  
2 and --

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Everybody was  
4 standing on the --

5 MR. HAMLETT: Everyone was standing on the  
6 bottom side of the roof, of the flying bridge. And  
7 there was, there was at one point where I looked at  
8 my older son, and him and I butted heads big time,  
9 but I just looked at him and said, I love you, man.  
10 I didn't know if either one of us was going to get  
11 out.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right, sir, I  
13 appreciate it.

14 MR. HAMLETT: Okay.

15 LIEUTENANT LIMBAUGH: Thank you.

16 (Pause.)

17 LIEUTENANT LIMBAUGH: All right, can you  
18 state your name, please?

19 MR. LOLL: My name is Brian Loll, B-R-I-A-N,  
20 last name spelled L-O-L-L.

21 LIEUTENANT LIMBAUGH: And today is the 14 of  
22 June, 2003, and the time is 14:15 local.

23 EXAMINATION OF BRIAN LOLL:

24 Q Can you please tell us what happened?

25 A We were going deep sea fishing trip and we



1 started heading out of the jetty on Tillamook Bay to  
2 the mouth and then they pretty much told us there  
3 were signs, warnings of rough bay, it was all lite  
4 up and everybody knew that. And we actually waited  
5 for about 40, almost a half hour, 45 minutes. I  
6 didn't have a watch, but my guess, circling around  
7 and just waiting for it to calm down, and they kind  
8 of gave us a clue that once low tide finished and  
9 instead of coming back up, it might calm down and we  
10 would head out. There was three other boats,  
11 another boat from the same company and then two  
12 others, two others were bigger and they waited about  
13 a half hour and then they took off, and then the  
14 other charter boat, it waited another 10, 15 minutes  
15 and it took off. And then we waited, I think our  
16 captain was a little hesitant, I don't know, it  
17 seemed to me, he even waited another 15 minutes  
18 after the other boat left. And then he started  
19 heading, he started to head out. And started going,  
20 it started getting pretty rough and we basically  
21 seemed to be going straight into the wave, cresting,  
22 hitting pretty hard, and then going out and  
23 cresting. And I don't know how many, five, I don't  
24 know, five or six, seven times, it did that over  
25 this, I mean, and the last one we basically come up,

1     and it was come down, and it was a big down, and  
2     then it was just like a wall, you know, it was  
3     probably twice the size of, you know, maybe 10, 15,  
4     twice the size of the other ones, the waves were  
5     hitting through. And we started coming down, and  
6     all of a sudden he turned, he started turning the  
7     boat north. But, the one thing I, I mean, I had  
8     never gone through the bar or the jetty, but, the  
9     bars, I wanted to see, I was just in that little  
10    cubbyhole, looking out the windows, so I was  
11    watching all of this, and I noticed kind of on the  
12    waves that, it was kind of two peaks, main, huge  
13    sections, they were like a little valley, in-between  
14    or something, and then it appeared to be kind of  
15    turned the boat, and it looked like it was trying to  
16    head for the peak, but I had seen this wave, it was  
17    coming way too fast. A lot faster than he expected  
18    because right as he started to do the turn, and head  
19    for it, it looked like it just hit us and we rolled,  
20    I know at least once, maybe twice. I don't think it  
21    was anymore times than that. And then, once we  
22    finished rolling, it was upside down and I think, at  
23    this time none of the windows or windows had busted  
24    out yet. And the cabin, I think the cabin door in  
25    the back, I think with the force of that first

1 impact shut, somehow shut, because the water was  
2 only up to about to the waist. My father and Mark,  
3 the captain, we first started, he gave us a safety  
4 course or showed us stuff, and indicated that the  
5 life vests were inside the cabin. And showed us  
6 that and said if there is a problem that is where  
7 they are at. Or since we were all trapped inside  
8 there, we basically started ripping the hole that  
9 where all the stuff had fallen out of, ripping them  
10 out and looking at them, and trying to find them.  
11 We found the vest, there was, I believe, eight,  
12 yeah, eight people inside that got inside there, and  
13 we all got a vest on. And then, basically was  
14 sitting there waiting, and the water was swirling  
15 about the waves, well, then we started rocking and  
16 then crashing back, didn't, never upright, and the  
17 view I had when I was looking, I could see the water  
18 started getting light and, you know, a bunch of  
19 windows on my, as I was facing the bough, I guess,  
20 the west side of the boat was always coming up. And  
21 after like the third or fourth time of it coming up,  
22 I realized, I think the water busted out the  
23 windows, I could see one window was busted out, and  
24 then the other one, I think, right below broke,  
25 because after that I tried to notice that the water

1       was coming in real fast, and the water was  
2       basically, I don't know, up to my chest and it was  
3       going up.

4               No one really panicked, but we were all  
5       basically saying we got to get out of here, we have  
6       got to get out of here, because we knew we had to  
7       get out. One of the guys went through the little  
8       window, got stuck, I shoved him out. I think  
9       another guy in the back, kicked the door open. I  
10      found out, that he was saying -- he went out the  
11      hatch in the back. So he kicked the door open and  
12      got out that way. I managed, by this time the water  
13      was filled up and it seemed like there was a crack,  
14      because I was standing in about a foot, a foot and a  
15      foot and half in air, and I could see the window,  
16      and basically made the decision, I was either going  
17      to drown in the boat or I am going to drown trying  
18      to get out. And I couldn't fit through the window  
19      with my vest on, so I had to take it off, and I was  
20      trying to keep it, so I could get it on when I got  
21      out and I couldn't, I lost it. But, I got out, and  
22      took the ride, the waves to the shore. And when I  
23      was about 300 feet from shore, when I realized that  
24      you can walk, tried walking the rest of the way in.

25           Q       Okay. Have you been on charter boats

1 before?

2 A This would be the second time.

3 Q Second time. Okay. Have you been, have  
4 you ever been on this vessel before?

5 A No, I have not.

6 Q Did everybody have life jackets on inside  
7 the vessel before going out and then took them off  
8 as they were heading out?

9 A No. We never had any, he just, we were  
10 just shown where they were at, and we never had any  
11 life jackets on after we started leaving the dock,  
12 no one had any jackets on.

13 Q Did you put on the life jackets after you  
14 had overturned?

15 A Once the boat overturned, we located where  
16 they were at and we put them on.

17 Q And then to get out through the windows,  
18 you had to take yours off.

19 A Yes.

20 Q Did the other people have to take off,  
21 theirs off?

22 A The way it sounds some of them, I heard  
23 one say they did because he just said he got struck  
24 going through and he had to, he wiggled out, and got  
25 out. And I think most of, I think most of them, I

1       don't know. I heard, I heard some of them say that  
2       they had them on, and they got out with them on, but  
3       they got caught up because the glass was, I think it  
4       was a glass window, because most of us got cuts. And  
5       I think the glass was, it was sagging the glass and  
6       stuff was sagging, so, I think they were getting  
7       stuck. And I know, my father-in-law said he had to  
8       take his off, and he bear hugged it the rest of the  
9       way in.

10           Q       Did your father have one on?

11           A       I believe my father had one on. Once we  
12       started getting real high in the water, I basically  
13       lost sight of where my dad was at.

14           Q       Right. Have you had much experience at  
15       sea or with boats?

16           A       Not recently. When I was younger, my  
17       grandfather had a boat, and I went out a bunch of  
18       times with, on little, smaller boats on lakes,  
19       nothing major like the ocean. I knew to be  
20       cautious and careful and watch yourself.

21           Q       Were you worried going out fishing today?

22           A       No, I was kind of, I shouldn't say  
23       nauseating, but a little bit at first when I  
24       started, we were going along and it was fine, and  
25       then when they got to the, we could see the bar and

1       how that was, my father-in-law said, hey, you should  
2       look at the waves, and I looked out and I kind of  
3       was a little hesitant, I wasn't really worried.

4                       (Interview ended.)

5                       LIEUTENANT LIMBAUGH: My name is Lieutenant  
6       Bill Limbaugh, I am with the U.S. Coast Guard,  
7       Marine Safety Office, Portland. Today is the 14 of  
8       June 2003. The time is 14:35 local time. And I am  
9       with Chris Hamlett.

10                      EXAMINATION OF CHRIS HAMLET

11                   Q       How old are you, Chris?

12                   A       Twenty six.

13                   Q       Can you go ahead and tell us what  
14       happened?

15                   A       Yes. Got on the boat, got ready. The  
16       guys that -- and then we cruised down, had the waves  
17       for -- in the jetty, not making it out, because the  
18       waves are too fast. And then we headed out, we  
19       were the last group to go out. And we started going  
20       over the waves when they were getting real big, and  
21       then a wave came at us, just an angle and it looked  
22       like sort of a -- but, the wave that we were on,  
23       sideways on it and we were on this wave and the wave  
24       was coming at us, and we kind of curved across the  
25       wave and couldn't make it to the -- in the wave, and

1     it was coming over top of us. And pouring in the  
2     water and just rolling, everything was taking on,  
3     filling up and then we were upside down, people were  
4     trying to talk -- and trying to get people. We were  
5     still on a wave or something and the boat was  
6     swaying, it kind of, you could kind of see the  
7     windows, trying to find a way out, and that is where  
8     we got out, the wave kind of like broke the window  
9     and the water started coming fast, you know, and we  
10    needed to get out. And I had been entrapped in  
11    this corner and I kind of -- around the seat, and  
12    really -- back up. And I got out through the  
13    window, and my dad and my brother, my brother-in-law  
14    was still in there. And I knew that they were  
15    bigger guys, so, I was thinking if they could get  
16    out, I was trying to hang on the guard rail and  
17    thinking maybe I could pull someone else out. But,  
18    the waves had crashed and I -- the guard rail, on  
19    the bough of the boat. I stayed there for a few  
20    minutes, helping to people go out. I just couldn't  
21    hang on any more, and I was going down, I had to get  
22    out of there. I have never -- I was hanging on the  
23    life jacket and --

24           Q     Did you, you weren't wearing your life  
25    jacket?



1           A     No, no one had life jackets on. We were  
2     inside the, when it flipped over and we had to find  
3     life jackets, put them on -- And my brother tried to  
4     help this guy out and --

5           Q     When you got out, were you wearing your  
6     life jackets?

7           A     Yes.

8           Q     Did you have any problem --

9           A     I put it on, and I was trying to figure  
10    out how it was suppose to strap on and I was going  
11    to -- I had it wrapped around my arm, and would get  
12    ahold of that rope part -- came off when I --

13          Q     Did they show you how to put on the life  
14    jackets before you left?

15          A     No, they didn't. I never had to put on a  
16    life jacket --

17          Q     How many trips have you done charter  
18    boats?

19          A     I guess, five.

20          Q     Have you been on this particular vessel  
21    before?

22          A     Not that one exactly. I don't think that  
23    one. The boat seemed a little small for that --

24          Q     Why is that?

25          A     Well, that, I don't know, maybe it just

1 the way we were going through the waves, that made  
2 it seem smaller, but --

3 Q Were you scared as you crossing the --

4 A Not really. It was kind of cool, going up  
5 and down, I enjoyed it. I like being on the ocean.

6 It was like the waves were breaking the connection  
7 at us and we tried to cut across the wave and we  
8 couldn't make it back. You could see the -- and we  
9 rolled and it was --

10 Q You could see all this from the window?

11 A Yes.

12 Q You were looking.

13 A Yes, yes.

14 Q Were you on the starboard or the port, on  
15 the right or left side?

16 A Left.

17 Q On the left side. So you could see the  
18 waves coming.

19 A Yeah. Because I was --

20 Q Okay.

21 A I tried to sleep, woke up, and the waves  
22 hitting us, we were going out, and I went to look  
23 and I was -- these big waves and then the next wave  
24 was there, the other one was coming at the wrong  
25 direction and we tried to -- above us, where the

1 boat was --

2 Q Do you know much about boats?

3 A Basically, my dad, we do bass fishing, and  
4 I don't know much about big boats.

5 Q Okay. That was a pretty big one.

6 Anything else you can think of, did you  
7 hear any radio conversations --

8 A Well, I could hear him talking to the --

9 Q Who was that?

10 A The first one to go out -- and the Coast  
11 Guard boat went out, and I said, go. He made it  
12 through and so they backed off, and then we were  
13 traveling back and forth, waiting the waves out.  
14 And then he decided to go, and --

15 Q Did you hear other radio conversations  
16 from other boats?

17 A No.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: As you know this is a  
19 very serious investigation. So, if there is going  
20 to be follow up questions, we can reach you at your  
21 Dad's?

22 MR. HAMLETT: Yes -- I have my own phone  
23 number.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You have your own  
25 phone number.

1 MR. HAMLETT: Yes.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I have it,  
3 please?

4 MR. HAMLETT: [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED]

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

7 MR. HAMLETT: I usually have it --

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

9 MR. HAMLETT: We travel in --

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You work in Salem.

11 MR. HAMLETT: Yes. It takes me an hour to  
12 get there and back. -- the traffic area -- five  
13 o'clock --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right, thanks.

15 (Interview concluded.)

16 LIEUTENANT LIMBAUGH: All right, my name is  
17 Lieutenant Bill Limbaugh, I am with the Coast Guard,  
18 Marine Safety Office, Portland. Today is the 14 of  
19 June 2003. The time is 14:53 local time. And I am  
20 with Daniel Hamlett.

21 EXAMINATION OF DANIEL HAMLETT

22 Q How do you spell your last name, Daniel?

23 A It is H-A-M-L-E-T-T.

24 Q Can you please tell us in as much detail  
25 as possible what happened today?

1           A     Well, Dad, Dan and I took off at six to go  
2     bottom fishing. And the swells were like 12 by 12,  
3     so we circled in front of the bar before we went out  
4     for like an hour until about seven when we finally  
5     headed out. And then the waves kept getting a  
6     little bit bigger, I was sitting toward the back so  
7     I couldn't see the front. I couldn't see the big  
8     waves that hit, and we went over one and dropped  
9     down, and like the wave was coming up and it was  
10    just like it was going to crest, and then it was  
11    like a hole over here that the guy was going to like  
12    go in. But, it just plowed the boat. Threw me  
13    out, I was out in the water for a little bit, and  
14    then I ended up back in, like in the hole.

15           Q     It threw you out of the cabin?

16           A     Yes.

17           Q     Through a window or the door?

18           A     No, I was sitting on the bench outside the  
19    cabin.

20           Q     Okay.

21           A     And it threw me out and then I was in the  
22    water for awhile and then I got sucked back in the  
23    cabin somehow. I don't know. And then we found  
24    the windows inside and climbed out those.

25           Q     Did you have a life jacket on?

1           A     Well, I had it, but I couldn't find the  
2     strap, so I just had to hold onto it.

3           Q     Was this after your father gave it to you?

4           A     Yes.

5           Q     And you put it on, it was not strapped,  
6     and you went through the window?

7           A     Yes. Well, when I went through the window,  
8     it came off, and I just held onto it, I wrapped my  
9     arm around the strap, but the straps were not down  
10    the life jacket part, so I went through and then --  
11    kind of body, kind of swim a little bit. I was  
12    exhausted.

13          Q     Did they give you a brief before going  
14    out, a safety brief?

15          A     Yes.

16          Q     Did they tell you how to put on life  
17    jackets?

18          A     Yes. Well, we were inside the hole and  
19    like there is a, probably -- on top and then stuff  
20    floating around in there like big boxes and stuff,  
21    and I don't know, I got it on and I couldn't find  
22    the strap anywhere. I held onto it and that is all  
23    I knew.

24          Q     Before you went out, before you crossed  
25    the bar, did the master tell you how to put on the

1 life jackets? Did they show you?

2 A Yes, they showed us earlier.

3 Q Okay. Have you been on this vessel  
4 before?

5 A No. I have been out before, but not on  
6 that one.

7 Q Were you scared?

8 A There were a couple of years ago we went  
9 out deep bottom fishing.

10 Q -- just waves you had been on.

11 A Yes.

12 Q Did you hear any radio traffic or anything  
13 like that, on the radio?

14 A No.

15 Q No. Okay.

16 A No.

17 LIEUTENANT LIMBAUGH: Any questions, Russ?

18 (Pause.)

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't think so.

20 LIEUTENANT LIMBAUGH: All right. This is a  
21 very serious investigation, so, we will probably in  
22 contact with you again.

23 MR. HAMLETT: Okay.

24 LIEUTENANT LIMBAUGH: You live with your  
25 father?

1                   MR. HAMLETT: Yes.

2                   LIEUTENANT LIMBAUGH: Okay. Okay. Thanks for  
3           your help. We appreciate it.

4                   (Interview ended.)